

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

## WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

### SITUATION REPORT # 11

1400 Hours October 18, 2005

*New Information in Bold Italics*

#### WEATHER

**Forecast:**

***Partly Cloudy, High temperatures in mid 70's, lows upper 40's, Winds West 5-10 MPH, 0% chance of precipitation. Rest of Commonwealth - Partly Cloudy, High temperatures 70's to 80's, lows 40's to 50's, winds W-SW 9-15 MPH, 0% chance of precipitation. Next chance for participation is 20% on Friday night through Saturday night.***

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:**

The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

**State of Emergency:**

On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage.

Executive Order 99 (2005) has been amended to impose an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap, effective immediately and continuing until such time as local officials advise the Governor it should be lifted.

The Governor directed limited activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) and the Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT) to coordinate the provision of assistance to the impacted localities.

**Local Situation:**

Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

Local Emergency Declared: Scott County declared a local emergency on October 15, 2005, specifying agricultural drought. There is no indication that this situation will impact the provision of 250,000 gallons of water per day by Scott County to Big Stone Gap.

#### STATE AGENCIES

##### Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is polling Southwest Virginia localities and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service to anticipate long-term drought conditions and the impact on agricultural resources.

A VDEM Hazardous Materials Officer is coordinating with Wise County, the Town of Big Stone Gap, and state/local agencies to identify needed resources and continue logistical support. A VDEM Reservist is on site at the Wise County Command Post to assist with logistics and finance.

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies and compiling a list of available resources.

The VEOC is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies. ***The next conference call is scheduled for October 20 at 9:30am.***

#### **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**

The local Health Department completed the assessment of special needs population in the area. A total of 256 individuals with special needs have been identified.

VDH is preparing kits for personal care workers, and supplying home delivered meals that contain water suitable for disabled populations, baby wipes and sanitizer.

The Virginia Department of Health Roanoke Regional Public Information Officer (PIO) is on scene to coordinate public information dissemination.

The Office of Drinking Water has offered to help the Town of Big Stone Gap test water. ***Water tests are ongoing, waiting on results. Boil water ban still in effect until notified for the Central area of the town. Sodium levels in test samples of water are being reviewed by VDH.***

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has been put on alert for possible activation to assist the special needs shelter.

#### **Virginia National Guard (VNG)**

VNG continues distribution and blivet support mission. The nine blivets are placed at the following locations: one at each of the three public schools, one at the Hospital, one at the Nursing Home, one serving the community college/DMME, one at the Special Needs Shelter, and two supporting the Portable Water Processing Plants (one to be in place October 17). VNG is maintaining the blivets.

#### **State Fire Marshall's Office**

***The SFMO identified buildings with automatic sprinkler system supplied by Big Stone Gap Water Supply.***

#### **Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)**

***The VDOC is refilling blivets and have successfully transported one million gallons of water per week by tanker to the effected areas.***

#### **Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)**

VDOT approved the utilization of Right-of-Way for course of water line between Town of Appalachia and Big Stone Gap.

VDOT ***has provided*** the use of its 1610 AM radio system to keep residents informed on water shortage in addition to existing message boards.

A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water.

#### **Department of General Services/Consolidated Labs**

VDGS/CL continues to test water samples from alternate water sources.

### **LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

The Town of Big Stone Gap ***began*** installing a 6-inch water line on October 17 connecting to the Town of Appalachia's water system. ***Installation is projected to be completed today with sanitizing and testing to immediately follow.*** Consideration is being given to pumping water from the Powell River at Appalachia to assist with supplying Appalachia's water system, with the potential to produce 400,000 gallons of water per day when up and running to supply the Towns of Big Stone Gap and Appalachia.

The Town of Big Stone Gap leased a portable water processing plant to produce potable water from the Powell River ***that became operational October 17.*** A "boil water notice" will be placed on the system until testing is complete. A second plant is scheduled to arrive ***today***, and projected operational date is Saturday, October 22.

Raw water input to the town of Big Stone Gap water system totaling 1.5 million gallons per day (gpd) allows the town to keep all users supplied with 'town' water at the "conservation rate" of production. While the water plant is producing the required 1.5 million gpd this production is supplemented by 600,000 gpd.

Water production and projections: Leased Package Plant #1 rated at 500,000 gpd is producing 400,000 gpd; Town of Appalachia 250,000 gpd from Thursday, October 20, 2005; and Leased Package Plant #2 500,000 gpd from Saturday, October 22, 2005.

By Saturday, October 22, 2005 the town is projected to have the capability for input of 1,850,000 gpd. This will be sufficient to maintain supply to all "conservation rate" demands, plus a cushion of 350,000 gpd.

This cushion may not be a noticeable surplus because of previously reported system losses. However, it could fill the area holding tanks that are presently low. The town relies on production rates sufficient to supply daily demand and to keep full a number of holding tanks throughout the service area. The daily "conservation rate" of production does not allow for them to be refilled.

Numerous businesses and residences have purchased portable water storage tanks. Town officials and VDH are developing procedures for advising the public on cleaning and sanitizing private water tanks as well as inspecting connections to individual systems to prevent backwash into the public system.

A full battery of chemical tests on Clinch Haven Farms well and water drawn from the Hairy Hole Cave began October 17. ***Installation of a pipeline from the "Cave" to the Big Stone Gap Water Treatment Plant is 70% complete.***

***Increased security is in place during Halloween weekend to protect blivits with added patrols by county and town law enforcement agencies.***

***An Open Burn Ban went into effect October 17 in Wise County and all in-county towns until further notice. Enforcement concerns for repeat offenders will be addressed.***

***Coca-Cola has donated 3,000 cases of drinking water to be delivered October 20 to the 3 area schools in Big Stone Gap.***

***The VA Rural Water Association will provide the Town of Big Stone Gap two Circuit Riders through October 21 to assist with locating leaks in the water distribution system.***

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